

NAVAL DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS
S&T WORKSHOP

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS/SCENARIO OVERVIEW

(Constructive- For Workshop Purposes Only)

Road to War

The year is 2020. For over a decade the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) has engaged in an aggressive program of outreach throughout the theater in support of security cooperation plans as well as U.S. Government and international organization assistance programs. PACOM's theater security cooperation plan reinforced solid partnerships with Australia, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Singapore. Military-to-military exchanges with the Philippines and the FMR were expanding and proving effective in the ongoing Global War on Terrorism. In addition to foreign internal defense, capacity building and training exercises with various regional partners, PACOM provided transportation, security, medical and veterinary assistance teams, emergency food supplies, and infrastructure upgrades. It also teamed with other U.S. and external organizations to respond to humanitarian crises, disease epidemics, and other emergencies. One means for this more inclusive and robust involvement was PACOM's Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF)-West. Originally focused on counter-drug operations, the JIATF's portfolio was expanded several years earlier to include a full range of civil-military, humanitarian, and national development activities.

PACOM's Navy and Marine service components were key participants in the theater security cooperation and capacity building efforts. Their focus was on enhancing the professionalism and warfighting capabilities of partner nations, expanding knowledge of the region, and supporting interagency peacetime engagement activities. To those ends, forward deployed naval units and mobile training teams (MTT) provided partner nations with training in riverine, maritime expeditionary security and interdiction, amphibious, combined arms, and counterinsurgency operations. Bi- and multi-lateral training opportunities were aggressively pursued to expand understanding of regional geography, culture, language, politics, and military capacity and to build ties with local militaries. Organizational and administrative assistance was provided to partner navies, coast guards, army, marine, and naval infantry units. Naval officers filled liaison, exchange, or attaché billets in many countries in the region, to include FMR and GK, to expand and maintain a Navy and Marine presence. Naval units also supported interagency medical, veterinarian, and construction/engineering programs. A regular program of naval and military exercises and exchanges with India had been instituted and visits to Chinese ports were increasingly common.

Forward deployed naval forces were a common presence in the region, supporting a wide range of cooperative security, capacity building, and humanitarian assistance programs. Naval units, in particular Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) and Marine forces, now routinely perform engagement missions. These forces have worked closely with interagency and international partners on a variety of humanitarian assistance missions in the Philippines, FMR, East Timor, Cambodia and Papua, New Guinea.

NAVAL DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS S&T WORKSHOP

The Global Fleet Station – Pacific (GFS-PAC), with its assigned NECC and Marine forces, was a key enabler of naval participation in PACOM's engagement and crisis response activities, coordinating and employing adaptive force packages tailored for persistent naval presence. Its flagship, a reconfigured Navy ship (former LPD), moved throughout the region conducting a wide range of engagement and response activities, returning periodically to its forward operating base in Singapore. GFS-PAC coordinated the engagement capabilities of naval units deployed in the region in support of PACOM's theater security cooperation efforts, tasks associated with the Global War on Terror, and rapid, initial responses to humanitarian crises.

Deploying a number of Service, Joint, Combined, and Interagency teams to assist partner nations in strengthening governmental, social and economic institutions, PACOM has made some progress in supporting friendly governments and reaching out to those who are not. Despite these successes, significant problems remain. Repression, corruption and poor governance continue to be hallmarks of many governments in the region. Territorial disputes, piracy, criminal activity, economic inequities, terrorism, ethnic hatred, and trafficking continue to generate significant regional tensions.

Independent of PACOM initiatives, Christian missionaries, medical assistance groups and a variety of humanitarian assistance NGOs are operating throughout the theater. Additionally American, Australian, British, Japanese and Chinese mining and petroleum engineers are conducting detailed surveys to expand their already extensive operations. A rising swell of businessmen and eco-tourists continue to visit the region.

The **Federated Malay Republic (FMR)**-overlaid on the geography of Malaysia- is a fairly prosperous, progressive, and responsible republic with strong national institutions. A multiethnic state that has achieved a high degree of comity, the FMR still faces some sectarian and communal divisions. This is particularly true in its oil and gas rich provinces of Sarawak and Sabah in northern Borneo. Though substantial revenues are derived from these hydrocarbon resources, a significant gulf exists between these provinces and the FMR ones on the Malaysian Peninsula in terms of personal wealth, political influence, and general standard of living, a fact that is well known and increasingly resented in Sarawak and Sabah.

FMR's southern neighbor, **Greater Kalimantan (GK)**-overlaid on the geography of Indonesia- is much more populous and much less stable. Ethnic and religious divisions threaten GK's unity and its standing in the international community. With its economy in a shambles due to ineptitude, corruption, and an unfortunate series of disasters both natural and man-made, GK is looking for an easy way out of its financial and ethnic predicament. Grasping the straws of colonial era issues, Cold War vestiges, and past conflicts with FMR, GK attempts to solve its problems in one quick move. Using its superior military forces, GK intends to invade the FMR provinces of Sarawak and Sabah in the hopes of unifying the country by fulfilling GK's "Manifest Destiny." Securing FMR's vast reserves of oil and natural gas in northern Borneo would be a very thinly disguised but highly favorable "unintended" consequence. Thus GK begins a series of

NAVAL DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS S&T WORKSHOP

actions to undermine FMR authority in Sarawak and Sabah to create exploitable opportunities.

Concurrent with its designs on the FMR, GK carries out a number of verbal and physical attacks on Western interests throughout the country. Using a variety of methods including police intimidation, carefully managed “spontaneous” mob violence, and government sanctioned criminal assaults, GK signals its ability to cause serious damage should it chose to do so. GK officials have also hinted during press releases and interviews of their “inability” to control the passions of Islamic and other extremist groups should “imperialist powers” attempt to intervene in any actions GK claims are internal affairs.

With relations between FMR and GK becoming increasingly contentious, PACOM increases capacity building and presence efforts in the region, particularly with FMR. The planning for possible U.S. military involvement in the event of a FMR/GK conflict increases in scope and intensity. Potential missions for a U.S.-led coalition force include bolstering FMR’s ability to resist aggression and protect its territorial sovereignty, insulating neighboring states from the potential escalation or export of the conflict, and maintaining freedom of navigation in the vital sea lines of communications.

Phases 0 and 1

At the start of 2020, distributed operations capable naval forces continue to conduct engagement and capacity building operations throughout the region. ESG Essex, with 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) embarked, is engaged in a series of training and humanitarian assistance activities on Luzon, Philippines, reinforcing GFS-PAC’s ongoing support to Department of State sponsored projects. GFS-PAC NECC and Marine forces form a riverine MTT for deployment to Tawau in the FMR province of Sabah in early February.

ESG Bonhomme Richard, with 11th MEU embarked, gets underway in Southern California enroute to Darwin to conduct a combined training exercise with elements of the Royal Australian Regiment in the spring. CSG Reagan, in the early stage of its Western Pacific deployment, is headed towards the northern South China Sea and Luzon Strait area to conduct freedom of navigation operations before visiting several Chinese ports in April. Naval special operations forces are also engaged in the region as small Marine Special Operations Command and Navy Special Warfare detachments conduct training with Philippine Army and naval forces on Mindanao. CSG Stennis, scheduled to deploy to the Southwest Asia region, will conduct bi-lateral exercises with the Indian Navy in the Bay of Bengal in late spring before making port visits in east India.

At the same time, GK quietly begins a campaign to generate unrest in FMR to exploit pockets of discontent with the FMR government and its pro-U.S. stance. Forward staging bases for GK military forces near the FMR border are completed and linked with road networks. GK reinforces its military presence on Borneo, steps up training, and gradually increases troop strengths at the staging bases.

NAVAL DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS S&T WORKSHOP

Alarmed by GK actions, FMR expands its limited reconnaissance activities and asks for increased U.S. training support. Special Forces detachments are sent to train FMR border brigade units. An exchange is conducted between the FMR Army in Borneo and III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) forces in Hawaii, in which a rifle company from 3^d Marines in Hawaii trains with a FMR infantry battalion in Kuching, Sarawak Province, while a FMR infantry company is hosted by 3^d Marines while undergoing instruction in distributed operations.

By spring, unrest in FMR Provinces of Sarawak and Sabah on Borneo continues to grow, spurred by GK supported anti-government FMR groups and increasing criminal activity, in particular by the New Triad (NT) organization, which has close ties with the GK intelligence apparatus. A U.S. embassy official was kidnapped in the Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah, in late April. In response to this event and the growing unrest in FMR, CSG Reagan was directed to sortie from its Chinese port visits and move towards northern Borneo. Due to the increased violence in Sarawak and Sabah, ESGs Essex and Bonhomme Richard were ordered curtail current operations and training, re-embark their MEUs, and get underway for FMR waters. Headed towards eastern India to conduct port visits after just completing training exercises with the Indian Navy, CSG Stennis was diverted to re-deploy vicinity FMR. MPSRON-3 in Guam is put on alert. III MEF and 7th Fleet are issued warning orders.

By 13 May the violence and unrest causes the FMR government to declare a state of emergency in Sarawak and Sabah. Two days later CSG Reagan and ESG Essex arrive vicinity Miri, Sarawak, to show support for FMR government and send a signal to GK. ESG Bonhomme Richard and CSG Stennis continue their movements towards Borneo. GFS-PAC personnel maintain contact with their FMR military counterparts to increase situational awareness. The GFS-PAC intelligence fusion center provides intelligence and cultural updates focused on Borneo to naval forces in or steaming towards FMR waters.

On 16 May GK regular and irregular military forces attack FMR. Kalimantan Liberation Army (KLA) units cross the border in western and central Sarawak and central Sabah. The initial main thrust into Sarawak heads towards the oil and natural gas fields vicinity Bintulu. The KLA task force built around two infantry brigades, two mechanized brigades, and supporting units, attacks along a broad front between Betong and Naanga Gaat while a supporting attack by a reinforced mechanized battalion pushes to the northwest towards Kuching. In Sabah, the KLA task force comprised of an infantry brigade, mechanized brigade, and supporting units heads towards Sandakan and the road network in the northern part of Borneo that will provide access to the oil and natural gas fields in the western part of that province. Kalimantan Liberation Air Force (KLAF) aircraft bomb several FMR coastal cities, ports, airfields, and transportation nodes to create chaos and hinder FMR response to the GK attack. Kalimantan Liberation Navy (KLN) diesel submarines and patrol craft with anti-ship missiles are postured to conduct anti-access operations if required. GK irregular forces already in Sarawak and Sabah increase their activities to tie up FMR law enforcement and military units and add to the confusion.

NAVAL DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS S&T WORKSHOP

FMR asks for assistance from the U.S. and other regional allies. The National Command Authority quickly directs the Commander, USPACOM to take action. CJTF Blue is established on 18 May, commanded by the Commander, Pacific Fleet. Its mission: *On order CJTF Blue deploys to support the Government of the Federated Malay Republic in the defense of its territory and to protect Coalition interests and citizens throughout the PACOM Area of Responsibility (AOR). Additionally CJTF Blue will act to ensure freedom of navigation in order to contain the conflict and minimize global economic disruption.* The Commanding General, III MEF is designated the Combined Joint Force Land Component Commander (CJFLCC) and the Commander, 7th Fleet is designated the Combined Joint Maritime Force Component Commander (CJFMCC). The air component (CJFACC) is built around the 10th Air Expeditionary Force (AEF). Special Operations Command- Pacific (SOC-PAC) heads the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force (CJSOTF).

FMR border brigade units fight hard and slow the initial KLA thrust somewhat, but they are soon overwhelmed. The Special Forces detachments provide advisory support and then escape into the countryside and begin organizing border brigade unit remnants to conduct interdiction operations against the invading KLA forces. CSG Reagan begins sea control operations with FMR naval forces vicinity Sarawak. ESG Essex deploys a reinforced rifle company to Bintulu to augment the FMR combat brigade stationed there and assist with FMR port and airfield security. ESG Essex then proceeds towards Kuching. Enroute it deploys a reinforced rifle company vicinity Betong to conduct interdiction operations against the approaching KLA forces and deny enemy access to the coastal road network north of the city. Elements of 31st MEU are then deployed ashore vicinity Kuching to reinforce FMR port and airfield security and linkup with the FMR infantry battalion and the rifle company from 3^d Marines it had been training with as part of the earlier exchange program. The rifle company from 3^d Marines chops to 31st MEU.

PACOM's JTF 510 deploys to the FMR provinces to assess the situation and conduct site reconnaissance. 3^d Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) (Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF)) in Hawaii, 5th MEB (Amphibious) in Southern California, and designated NECC Expeditionary Echelon forces located throughout the United States are activated.

MPSRON-3 is directed to proceed to Kuching and Bintulu in Sarawak to conduct a split MPF offload. 3^d MEB and NECC Offload Preparation Parties (OPP) deploy to linkup with MPSRON-3 shipping in Guam. 3^d MEB's Survey, Liaison, and Reconnaissance Parties (SLRP) and Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration (RSOI) teams and elements of NECC's Expeditionary Logistics Support Task Group deploy to Kuching and Bintulu to begin preparations for the MPF offload, the introduction of forces, and subsequent operations. Lead elements of NECC's Maritime Expeditionary Security Force (MESF) landward and embarked security detachments deploy to Bintulu and Kuching to help FMR authorities with port and airfield infrastructure security.

NAVAL DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS S&T WORKSHOP

ESG Bonhomme Richard arrives vicinity Sabah. The GFS-PAC riverine MTT at Tawau is reinforced with communications assets, intelligence personnel, and a Marine Corps distributed operations platoon from 11th MEU.

The FMR infantry battalion, rifle company, and 31st MEU elements, supported by ESG Essex, CSG Reagan, and FMR aviation, surprise and maul the small KLA force moving towards Kuching, causing it to withdraw and move southeast to linkup with parent forces south of Betong. The FMR infantry battalion and the rifle company from 3^d Marines pursue while the 31st MEU elements remain in Kuching to ensure security for the introduction of forces.

ESG Bonhomme Richard is soon joined by CSG Stennis, which commences sea control operations with FMR naval forces. Shortly thereafter, the bulk of 11th MEU's battalion land team (BLT) is inserted into various locations in southeastern and central Sabah to conduct interdiction operations against advance KLA forces. ESG Bonhomme Richard establishes contact with the Special Forces detachments organizing FMR border brigade unit remnants in the province and the FMR and GFS-PAC riverine MTT force to coordinate their operations with those of the BLT.

The FMR naval/ GFS-PAC riverine MTT force, operating from Tawau, begins conducting interdiction operations along the FMR border against KLA lines of communication.

5th MEB begins loading on ESG Boxer shipping in Southern California several days after CJTF Blue is established. NECC forces also conduct intense embarkation and deployment preparation activities.

A week after the GK invasion of FMR, the UN Security Council condemns the aggression and authorizes the use of force on 24 May to restore FMR sovereignty in Sarawak and Sabah. Australia, the United Kingdom, and Japan quickly join the Coalition and begin preparing their forces for deployment. ESG Bonhomme Richard elements then move to Sandakan to reinforce FMR port and airfield security and help preparations for the planned offload of the Royal Australian Regiment (RAR) there.

Phases 2 and 3

By the last week of May, ESG Boxer, with 5th MEB embarked, has gotten underway from Southern California. 3^d MEB and NECC OPPs linked up with MPSRON-3 before it got underway towards Bintulu and Kuching. 3^d MEB's SLRPs and RSOI teams SLRPs are in Bintulu and Kuching preparing for the arrival of MPSRON-3. NECC's Expeditionary Logistics Task Group arrives and quickly prepares for offload, cargo handling, and force flow operations at the ports and airfields at both cities. MESF landward security detachments assist FMR security at those two ports, while lead elements of other NECC task groups flow into Kuching and get ready for initial operations. 3^d MEB units begin flying into Sarawak as MPSRON-3 arrives vicinity the two cities on 29 May and the MPF offload immediately commences.

NAVAL DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS S&T WORKSHOP

To the east in Sabah, 11th MEU's BLT conducts interdiction operations in southeastern and central Sabah. ESG Bonhomme Richard maintains contact with the Special Forces detachments organizing FMR border brigade unit remnants in the province and the FMR naval/GFS-PAC riverine MTT force to coordinate their operations with those of the BLT. The FMR naval/GFS-PAC riverine MTT continue to conduct raids west of Tawau along the FMR border against KLA lines of communication.

3^d MEB fixed wing aircraft flow into Bintulu while the rotary wing aircraft are offloaded in Kuching. 10th AEF aircraft deploy to Miri and establish a detachment at Sandakan. FMR, 10th AEF, 3^d MEB, and carrier aviation quickly establish air superiority over FMR and begin striking KLA forces in FMR territory.

A CJFLCC liaison team and a reinforced rifle company from 3^d MEB replace the 31st MEU rifle company operating with FMR combat brigade. 3^d MEB then conducts a relief in place with ESG Essex, which quickly re-embarks 31st MEU and puts to sea.

In Sabah, RAR personnel and equipment begin to arrive on 4 June by amphibious ships and commercial air and shipping. RAR offloads at Sandakan. CJFLCC provides the RAR with a liaison element and 3rd MEB sends reinforced rifle company to augment the Australian force.

3^d MEB and RAR complete their offload, arrival, and assembly operations by 9 June and both move to engage KLA forces. 3^d MEB pushes east from Kuching to destroy the KLA forces vicinity Betong. At the same time, the FMR combat brigade moves from its blocking positions south of Bintulu towards Naanga Gaat. After clearing enemy forces in zone vicinity Betong, 3^d MEB moves east to cut KLA lines of communication into central Sarawak before turning north to engage KLA units vicinity Naanga Gaat.

NECC MESF seaward security, maritime interdiction operations exploitation, and riverine forces begin initial security operations from Kuching, while the MESF landward security detachment continues to assist FMR port and airfield security efforts. The MESF seaward security detachment extends its coverage from Kuching westwards to the FMR border and north towards Miri as forces flow into theater. NECC riverine forces operate in the river network east of Kuching in support of CJFLCC operations vicinity Betong. The Construction/ Engineering Task Group repairs and improves port and airfield facilities and associated transportation networks, repairs damaged FMR patrol craft, constructs base camps, and organizes to support CJFLCC operations inland. Explosive ordnance disposal and salvage detachments clear hazards to navigation in Kuching and Bintulu harbor areas. The Maritime Civil Affairs Task Group identifies potential projects, begins planning, and coordinates with SOC-PAC and CJFLCC civil affairs units.

RAR moves south from Sandakan into central Sabah to engage KLA forces there. ESG Bonhomme Richard re-deploys vicinity Tawau and, supported by CSG Stennis, conducts

NAVAL DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS S&T WORKSHOP

interdiction operations in conjunction with the FMR naval/GFS-PAC riverine MTT force against enemy lines of communication along the FMR border.

By 14 June 3^d MEB has cleared enemy forces in zone vicinity Betong and moved east into central Sarawak and attacked the main KLA effort. The FMR combat brigade has pushed south and now KLA units vicinity Naanga Gaat are engaged from multiple directions. In central Sabah, RAR continues to attack KLA forces. KLA regular forces in both provinces are soon overmatched by the Coalition's combined arms capabilities and begin to pull back as best they can, withdraw into defensive enclaves to await reinforcements, or break and scatter. CJTF Blue forces, to include 3^d MEB and RAR, assist FMR authorities dealing with GK irregular forces operating in the rear areas.

ESG Essex, supported CSG Reagan and Patrol Squadron-1 (RAN), attacks GK military facilities along GK's western Borneo coast, destroying military capabilities, cutting lines of communication, and tying up KLA forces that could be sent to reinforce GK operations in Sarawak.

The NECC riverine force expands its operations in the river network south and east of Kuching, countering GK enemy regular and irregular activities, enabling waterborne commerce in that region, and supporting CFLCC operations in western and central Sarawak. MESF seaward security presence is extended from western FMR/GK waters up to Miri as more of those capabilities flow into theater. The MESF landward security detachments support FMR forces and police protecting key port infrastructure at Kuching, Bintulu, Miri, and Sandakan. The Construction/Engineering Task Group supports 3rd MEB and other CJFLCC operational needs. In addition, elements of the Construction/Engineering and the Maritime Civil Affairs Task Groups conduct civil-military operations in trace of the 3^d MEB's movement eastward to mitigate the impact of the fighting. Explosive ordnance disposal, construction, underwater construction, and salvage teams continue port and harbor facility upgrades, clearing hazards to navigation, and assisting FMR naval forces. Explosive ordnance disposal teams also support CJFLCC and other CJTF Blue component operations as needed. Port and airfield cargo handling units continue supporting logistical throughput. The Expeditionary Logistics Task Group increases the robustness of its support to NECC and other naval forces in the operating area.

CSG Stennis, FMR naval forces, and Patrol Squadron-2 (RAN) extend sea control efforts south towards the Makassar Strait. ESG Boxer arrives in the western Celebes Sea from Southern California on 21 June. A sea base is established, using designated MPSRON-3 ships and selected CLF ships from the 7th Underway Replenishment Group, to support ESG Boxer and CSG Stennis operations. ESG Boxer quickly begins to conduct interdiction operations against enemy military units, facilities, and lines of communications along the eastern Borneo coast from the FMR border south to Samarinda.

By 22 June, RAR, supported by ESG Bonhomme Richard and FMR naval/GFS-PAC riverine MTT force operations, has blunted the KLA advance, destroyed the main

NAVAL DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS S&T WORKSHOP

fighting units, and is mopping up remaining pockets of resistance. KLA remnants flee south to escape or join GK irregular forces. In Sarawak, KLA forces vicinity Naanga Gaat caught between the FMR combat brigade and 3^d MEB fight desperately, but Coalition forces shatter those formations, forcing small, unorganized groups to flee south towards GK or to melt into the countryside to join irregular threats. In both provinces, CJFLCC forces position themselves to pursue KLA forces to the FMR border and posture themselves to penetrate into GK if so directed.

At the end of June the UN establishes Humanitarian Operations and Logistics Centers in Kuching and Sandakan. Representatives from the UN, NGO, and Coalition governments, as well as CJTF Blue, gather to plan for post-conflict relief efforts.

By early July, ESG Boxer operations have severed KLA lines of communication in northeastern Borneo. Coalition sea control operations have crippled KLN efforts in the Celebes Sea and Makassar Strait. Coalition operations move inexorably south along the eastern coast towards Balikpapan, the provincial GK capital city in Borneo. ARG Ocean (RN), with 40 Commando embarked, arrives from the UK to support ESG Boxer.

In western Borneo, ESG Essex, CSG Reagan, and Patrol Squadron-1 (RAN) operations have tied up KLA forces in northwestern GK and neutralized KLN submarine and surface vessel activity south to Pulaukumbang.

Faced with the losses in the FMR provinces and Coalition attacks along their eastern and western coasts, GK civilian and military leaders in Balikpapan increase their desperate requests to the GK government in Jakarta for reinforcements. But Coalition operations in western and eastern Borneo have isolated those areas and limited options for inserting reinforcements on to the island. To relieve pressure on Borneo, GK regular and irregular forces in Sumatra are directed to attack commercial shipping and lay mines in the Strait of Malacca. They launch a number of missile attacks from patrol boats and land sites against ships in the Strait, hitting several oil tankers and container ships in a matter of hours. The damaged vessels become hazards to navigation and cause several collisions between ships moving through the Strait. Criminal elements, pirates, and terrorists seek to exploit the chaos in the Strait to their advantage. Insurance rates skyrocket and movement through the Strait declines precipitously, causing grave concern throughout Southeast and Northeast Asia, which reverberates throughout the global economy.

The Indian Navy engages a suspected pirate vessel south of its Nicobar Islands, just west of the northern entrance to the Strait of Malacca, and sinks a GK frigate attempting to aide the pirates. FMR naval forces sink an unmarked vessel laying sea mines west of its port of Melaka located in upper part of the Strait's narrow portion. Other mines are soon discovered elsewhere in Strait of Malacca. The Singapore Navy begins clearing operations at the southern mouth of the Strait and requests Coalition assistance to restore freedom of navigation.

On 4 July CJFMCC directs CSG Reagan and ESG Essex to re-deploy vicinity the southeastern portion of the Strait of Malacca to begin freedom of navigation operations

NAVAL DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS S&T WORKSHOP

and clear that vital area of the GK threat. Patrol Squadron 1 (RAN) remains in northwestern Borneo waters to maintain sea control. ESG Essex reconfigures in Kuching to add a NECC Expeditionary Echelon detachment of explosive ordnance, salvage, MESF seaward security, and riverine capabilities. The Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC) company embarked on ESG Essex remains TACON to 11th MEU.

CJFMCC now moves to isolate Balikpapan through the imposition of a flexible sea, air, and ground cordon. On 6 July ESG Boxer and ARG Ocean (RN), supported by CSG Stennis and other Coalition naval forces, land elements of 5th MEB and 40 Commando north and south of Balikpapan to conduct interdiction operations and control key chokepoints from areas well outside the city environs. The intent is to prevent movement of military forces in or out of the city, engage critical high value targets of opportunity through precision fires to degrade command and control and offensive capabilities, and minimize collateral damage to preclude a mass movement of refugees. The blocking positions are not fixed sites; 5th MEB and 40 Commando units move quickly and frequently throughout the area to confuse the enemy, bypass refugee groups, and avoid decisive engagement with KLA forces. Coalition forces rely on joint air and surface fires to control key chokepoints and to break contact when they become engaged. Enhanced mobility, logistical support, and fire support provide a persistent hindrance to KLA efforts to get in or out of Balikpapan and maintain control of the surrounding countryside. The Coalition forces cordoning off Balikpapan are augmented by NECC MESF seaward security and maritime interdiction operations exploitation assets.

Though Coalition forces do not attack into Balikpapan, the loss of control by civil and military authorities in the city and the resultant increased violence by criminal groups and local militias prompts civilians to flee the unrest and chaos. Deserting KLA soldiers attempt to escape the city by blending in with the refugees. Coalition forces increase their standoff distance from Balikpapan to avoid being overwhelmed by the sheer number of people fleeing the city.

CSG Reagan and ESG Essex merge to form Expeditionary Strike Force (ESF) Reagan, which arrives vicinity of Singapore on 11 July. MCM-10 and the GFS-PAC flagship, both operating from Singapore, join the ESF. On 12 July ESF Reagan and Singapore naval forces begin coordinated freedom of navigation operations in the southeastern portion of the Strait of Malacca. Mines are cleared, ships escorted, and hazards to navigation cleared. GK air forces, naval forces, and other vessels threatening ship traffic in the Strait are attacked, as are their supporting shore installations. Amphibious raids and air and surface strikes are conducted against land based anti-ship missile sites.

By 15 July, CJFLCC forces have restored the FMR borders in Sarawak and Sabah and are working with FMR military and police to deal with the irregular GK forces operating in FMR territory. NECC riverine, explosive ordnance disposal, construction/engineering, and maritime civil affairs teams support those efforts.

NAVAL DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS S&T WORKSHOP

CJTF Blue is then directed to destroy the KLA forward staging bases near the FMR border to preclude future use by GK. CJFLCC forces cross the border to destroy GK military infrastructure within 50 kilometers of the FMR border and push remaining KLA forces further south. Air strikes in GK territory are limited to protection of Coalition forces and destruction of military capabilities within the 50 kilometer zone. All CJFLCC forces are back in FMR territory by 25 July.

The Coalition push into GK territory was a catalyst for increased anger against Westerners throughout the whole of GK. Islamist factions in Bali attack Hindus, Christians and the several hundred remaining U.S. and other Western nation citizens, who were unable to leave the island since the invasion of FMR by GK forces. This violence is ignored and often abetted by civil and military authorities.

On 16 July, ESG Bonhomme Richard, with 11th MEU embarked, is directed to re-deploy from the western Celebes Sea/northern Makassar Strait area and proceed to Bali to conduct a non-permissive NEO. The ESG is augmented by two JHSV's and a RAR battalion. Escorted through the Makassar Strait by elements of CSG Stennis and Patrol Squadron 2 (RAN), ESG Essex arrives vicinity Bali the morning of 19 July. Using the U.S. Embassy Jakarta's evacuation plan and information updates from GFS-PAC's intelligence fusion center, a quick reconnaissance is conducted and an area on the southeastern coast is secured. Preparations begin slowly as Coalition forces struggle to locate evacuees.

Based on information gleaned from sympathetic Balinese citizens and the initial groups of recovered evacuees, ESG Bonhomme Richard quickly disperses its forces to establish multiple collection points throughout the island and sends units inland to locate other evacuees. The increased Coalition activity stirs up the local Muslim community, resulting in more violence against evacuees yet unable to reach a collection point and increasing harassment of Coalition forces. On several occasions, deadly force is necessary to prevent attacks on evacuees and collection points.

After a week of conducting NEO operations, the two JHSV's, each carrying evacuees and a security detachment from the RAR battalion, and accompanied by the LCS assigned to ESG Bonhomme Richard, gets underway on 26 July enroute to Dili, East Timor. Once at Dili, the evacuees will be airlifted via commercial air to Darwin for further processing and return to their countries. The LCS and JHSV's will then return to the Makassar Strait to linkup with Coalition naval forces there.

By the end of July, Coalition naval forces have worked to the middle of the Strait of Malacca across from Kuala Lumpur and maintained their push to the northwest. FMR naval forces join ESF Reagan and Singapore Navy vessels in sea control efforts. ESF Reagan continues to engage KLN forces and other vessels threatening shipping, attack GK military shore installations along the coast, conduct countermine operations, and coordinate with non-Coalition forces also operating in the Strait. ESF elements (NECC detachments and GFS-PAC flagship) train FMR naval forces in maritime expeditionary

NAVAL DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS S&T WORKSHOP

security and riverine operations. Other NECC detachments with the ESF cleared hazards to navigation in the Strait and FMR ports.

ESG Bonhomme Richard remains off of Bali to continue the NEO and evacuates several dozen more Western citizens. On 1 August ESG Bonhomme Richard withdraws from Bali waters and headed north to linkup with Coalition naval forces in the Makassar Strait.

Phases 4 and 5

The military defeat in Borneo and quick Coalition response to the Strait of Malacca situation isolated GK in the international community and exacerbated domestic problems. These conditions served as a catalyst for a military coup that toppled the GK government in Jakarta in early August. The new government quickly asks for a cease fire and seeks terms. Fallout from the fighting and GK and criminal cyber attacks has produced economic and social disruption throughout the northern half of Borneo and its western and eastern coasts, as well throughout FMR and GK in general.

On Borneo the organized GK militias operating in FMR for the most part disbanded and melted away, taking their weapons with them. But other irregular forces, terrorists and criminals went to ground with the intent and capability to cause further trouble. Villagers in many areas remained somewhat reluctant to cooperate with the FMR government or Coalition forces and remained highly skeptical of all outside influences. FMR, UN, U.S. and Coalition government agencies, and NGO partners begin to expand their multi-faceted activities in Sarawak and Sabah. Requests for CJTF Blue security and logistics support increases, placing more tasks on Coalition forces already busy helping the FMR restore its civil authority. Lines of authority, responsibility, and accountability between multiple independent actors are blurred at best.

In the Strait of Malacca, CJFMCC forces continue to cooperate with other nations to eliminate active threats to seaborne traffic from GK regular and irregular units, criminal elements, pirates, and terrorists. Despite Coalition freedom of navigation efforts in that critical chokepoint, maritime traffic movement is low and insurance rates remain prohibitively high, causing severe impact on the economies of FMR and GK, as well as Southeast Asia in general.

CJTF Blue conducts the full range of combined/joint/interagency actions in Sarawak and Sabah to restore order and security, mop up resistance, reconstitute institutions and infrastructure, and enable a return to civil authority. CJFLCC, CJSOTF, and NECC forces conduct a wide range of civil military operations.

Coalition forces work with an array of FMR, U.S. governmental, international, and local organizations to restore order, deliver humanitarian relief, collect and dispose of explosive remnants of war, lay the foundations for economic recovery, and conduct capacity building programs for FMR civil and military organizations. They also begin to reconstitute to better conduct Phase 4 and 5 tasks and prepare for redeployment as directed.

NAVAL DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS S&T WORKSHOP

The information campaign stresses that Coalition forces are in FMR and the region to assist in providing security and improving the quality of life. To counter the propaganda by anti-Western groups that Borneo is being occupied, the temporary nature of the large number of U.S. and Australian forces is reinforced at every opportunity. Even though a large number of Coalition forces will be required to remain in Sarawak and Sabah, as well as in the region for the near term, units ashore not needed for Phases 4 and 5, such as heavy armor and attack aircraft, are withdrawn, reconstituted as appropriate, and re-embarked or re-deployed to their home stations amid intensive media coverage.

In December 2020, UN peacekeepers prepare to deploy to Balikpapan, Tarakan, and Pontianak in the GK portion of Borneo to help the GK government provide humanitarian assistance in those areas. CJTF Blue coordinates with the UN peacekeeping headquarters to identify support requirements. Selected Coalition forces are earmarked to support the UN peacekeeping effort, and are reconstituted to conduct preparatory training and equipment staging.

In mid-January 2021, UN peacekeepers begin deployment to various locations in the GK portion of Borneo to establish enclaves from which international and nongovernmental organizations can deliver humanitarian aid and initiate recovery efforts. Supporting Coalition forces operate from sea bases to the maximum extent possible to minimize force protection issues generated by the presence of U.S. and Western nation forces in GK territory. These ad-hoc sea bases are comprised of an amphibious ship (LPD or LSD), a MPF ship with humanitarian supplies and equipment, several high speed connectors, and small craft and lighterage. A Coalition combatant (LCS, frigate, or destroyer) and NECC MESF detachments provide at sea security. Coalition forces maintain a low profile while conducting port operations, transportation, engineering, explosive ordnance disposal, communications, and logistics activities. Coalition combat forces are not employed in GK territory except where necessary to provide local security for Coalition support units.

By the end of 2021, FMR has restored its civil authority in Sarawak and Sabah, allowing the bulk of U.S., Australian, and UK forces to redeploy. Mobile training teams and civil affairs detachments conducting capacity building and civil-military operations remain in Sarawak and Sabah. GFS-PAC and other naval forces participate in PACOM's engagement programs throughout the region, to include FMR.